

First Store Opens in Grand Island Mall . . .



OPENS WEDNESDAY — The new Woolco Department store at Grand Island Mall Shopping Center at 2208 N. Webb Road will open at 9:30 a.m., Wednesday. The new 90,000 square

foot store is the first to open in the Grand Island Mall. The store features both name brand and private label merchandise, according to store manager Bob Billings.

Woolco Opens Wednesday

By DON LAWSON
The first store in the new Grand Island Mall Shopping Center will open at 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, according to Bob Billings, manager of the Woolco Department Store. The 90,000 square foot store will increase the number of department stores operated by the firm to 218, Billings said.

Grand Island Mall occupies a 30-acre tract at 2208 N. Webb Road. The shopping center consists of approximately 300,000 square feet of retail establishments and parking will be provided for more than 2,000 cars.

In its 12th year of operation, Woolco is a division of the F. W. Woolworth Co., and some 30 to 40 new stores are scheduled to be opened this year.

Billings said the store will employ some 200 people which have been hired locally. "Only the members of the management team have moved here," he said.

Billings has been with Woolco for 12 years and, prior to moving to Grand Island five weeks ago, he was an assistant general manager for Woolco in Lakewood, Colo. He and his wife, DeLina, have four children—Susan, 15, Linda, 14, Russel, 13, and Kenneth, 9.

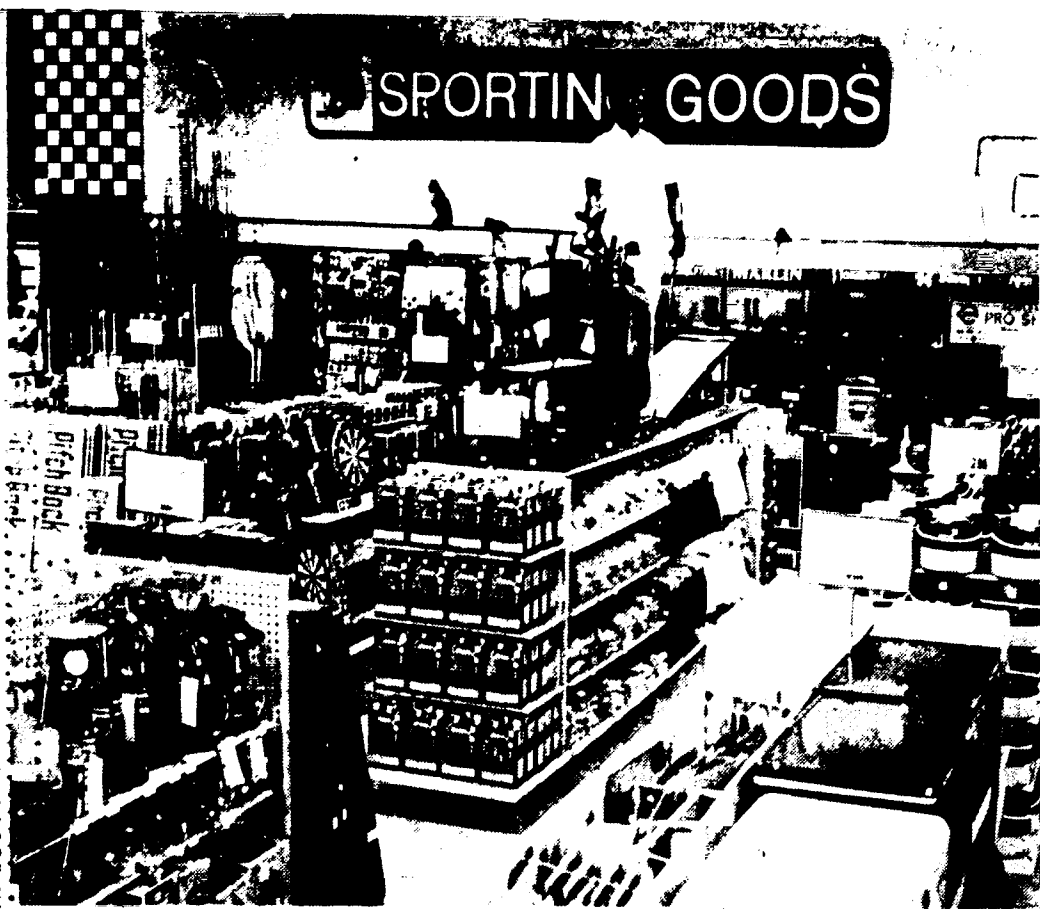
John Bates is assistant manager of the store. He previously was a department division manager for the firm in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Bates and his wife, JoLynn, have three children, Tony, Allison and Adam.

Other management personnel include Mike Downing, formerly of Colorado Springs, Colo., who will be in charge of housewares and hardware; Phillip Crable, former manager of the Woolworth store in Grand Island, will be in charge of the music center, stationary and toy areas. Bernard Burzynski from Milwaukee, Wisc., is in charge of the domestic department.

Billings explained that "Woolco Department stores are designed for modern shoppers who are looking for quality, convenience and a complete assortment of both name brand and private label merchandise at competitive prices."

One of the main convenience areas to shoppers will be the Red Grill, an 80-seat quick service restaurant. Billings said the grill will offer sandwiches, grilled hamburgers and quick service items to shoppers. The store also offers a complete automotive department handling tires, batteries and accessories. There are also complete automobile service facilities staffed with mechanics and five service bays where shoppers can have the car serviced while they shop, he said.

Billings said that some of the major departments in the store will include wearing apparel, major and minor appliances, paint and accessories, floor coverings, bedding, draperies, domestics and sewing machines, hardware, tools, sporting goods, cameras, luggage and leather goods, jewelry, musical instruments and phonograph records, horticultural supplies, pets and pet supplies, a smoke shop, cosmetics and health and beauty aids.



SPORTING GOODS — One of the most completely stocked sporting goods departments in this area can be found at Woolco. The department features full lines of tennis equipment, hunting, camping, golfing and boating supplies.



This Person...



RED GRILL RESTAURANT — The Red Grill restaurant at the new Woolco Department Store in Grand Island Mall Shopping Center will be a convenient facility for shoppers. The 80-seat facility offers a quick service menu.



STORE MANAGEMENT — Woolco Assistant Manager, John Bates (left) and Manager Bob Billings make a last minute check of merchandise before the store opens Wednesday. The firm will employ some 200 local people.

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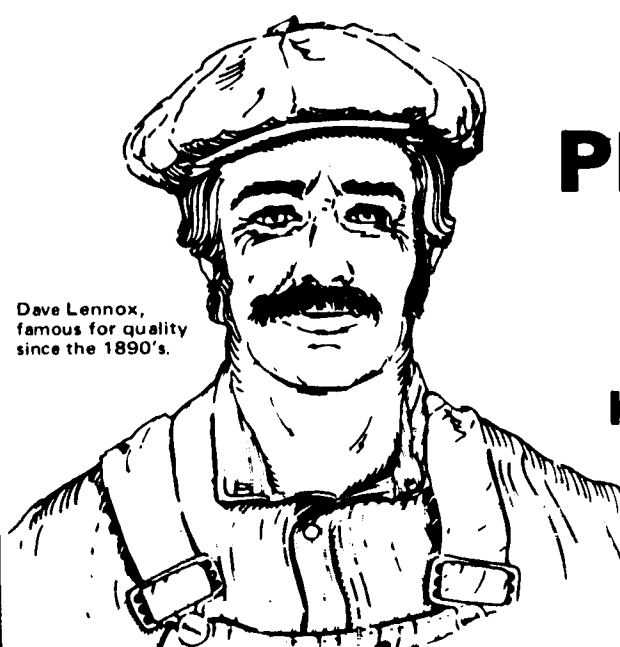
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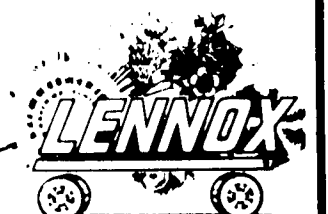
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